

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 FAA-00 NEA-10 PRS-01 USIA-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10 RSR-01 /076 W

----- 025256

R 071250Z AUB 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3136

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 5771

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, AR

SUBJ: CIVAIR-AEROLINEAS HIJACKING

REF: STATE 149611

1. INFORMATION BELOW KEYED TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER IN REFTEL.

A - FLIGHT AR-588

B - THIS FLIGHT REGULARLY OPERATES FROM BUENOS AIRES TO TUCUMAN AND JUJUY. IT RETURNS FROM JUJUY AS FLIGHT NO 519 AND STOPS IN TUCUMAN AND CORDOBA.

C - THE AIRCRAFT WAS HIJACKED SOON AFTER IT LEFT EZEIZA ON JULY 4 AT 12:55 MAKING A STOP IN MENDOZA. IT OVERFLEW THE CORDILLERA DE LOS ANDES AND RETURNED TO MENDOZA, PROCEEDED FINALLY TOSANTIAGO DE CHILE, LIMA AND PANAMA, ARRIVING IN LA HABANA (JOSE MARTI AIRPORT) JULY 5 AT 07:50.

D - THE AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO BUENOS AIRES JULY 8 AT 14:00.

E - THE HIJACK WAS COMMITTED BY BASILIO JOSE MAZOR, REPEAT SURNAME MAZOR, ARGENTINE, MALE, 24 YEARS OLD, MARRIED, AN ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE OF THE PERGAMINO MUNICIPALITY (PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES), PERSONNEL FILE NO 658. THERE IS NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE IDENTIFYING HIM AS BEING A MEMBER OF ANY ARGENTINE POLITICAL GROUP. POLICE SOURCES BELIEVE THIS MAN SUFFERS MENTAL PROBLEMS.

F - THE FLIGHT WAS INITIATED WITH 74 PASSENGERS (69 ADULTS, 1 UNDER-AGE, 4 BABIES) AND 6 CREW, INCLUDING COMMANDER EDGARDO

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BURSI, COPILOT RICARDO RAIMONDI.

G-1 - THE HIJACKER WENT ON BOARD AT EZEIZA AIRPORT AS A PASSENGER TO JUJUY.

G-2 - PASSENGERS ON THIS FLIGHT WERE NOT SCREENED. GOA OFFICIALS AND AIRLINES NORMALLY DO NOT SCREEN PASSENGERS ON DOMESTIC FLIGHTS. THEY SCREEN INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS ON A SPOT CHECK BASIS.

G-3 - AFTER PLANE WAS IN FLIGHT BE PULLED OUT DOUBLE-BARRELED SAWED-OFF 16 GAUGE SHOTGUN, WHICH HAD BEEN CONCEALED UNDER HIS PONCHO. THIS WAS THE ONLY WEAPON HE SHOWED DURING THE FLIGHT, ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMED TO BE CARRYING A PLASTIC BOMB WHICH HE COULD SET OFF AT WILL. IT IS REPORTED THAT AFTER HE WAS DISARMED BY CUBAN OFFICIALS ON ARRIVAL IN HABANA THEY FOUND THIS SHOTGUN WAS OUT OF ORDER AND COULD NOT BE FIRED.

G-4 - HE CLAIMED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ARGENTINE TERRORIST GROUP, PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP) AND DEMANDED THAT THE AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS TURN OVER \$100,000 TO THE ARGENTINE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND ANOTHER \$100,000 TO A SPECIAL ARGENTINE MEDICAL COMMISSION COMBATting AN ILLNESS KNOWN AS QUOTE MAL DE LOS RASTROJOS. UNQUOTE.

2. EDITORIAL REPORTS WROTE TWO EXTENSIVE ARTICLES IN THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE SIETE DIAS PUBLISHED ON JULY 16 AND 23. COPIES WILL BE TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY. THE EMBASSY IS STILL ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE AND ACQUIRE COPIES OF THE TAPES IN PARA 2 REFTTEL.
KREBS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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